

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 13, 2006

Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
3080 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to you in regard to the study the Department of Defense is undertaking to examine the impact windmill farms have on our nation's military readiness. We believe the report should not only detail the impacts that wind projects have on military radar systems, but also thoroughly examine the effective technologies that are available to mitigate any potential interference problems.

As you know, Senator John Warner (R-VA) added a provision to the FY06 National Defense Authorization Act that required the Department of Defense (DOD) to study and report on the effects of wind projects on military readiness. Subsequently, the DOD issued a joint interim policy with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which officially created the "DOD Wind Farm Action Team" and tasked it with the responsibility of preparing and submitting a final report to Congress. While the language in the Defense Authorization Act directs the DOD to submit the final report no later than 120 days after its enactment on January 6, 2006, it is our understanding that your team may delay issuing it until sometime later this summer.

It also is our understanding that technologies exist to successfully mitigate interference that wind turbines may have on military radar systems. We certainly agree that Senator Warner's provision clearly requires you to assess "...technologies that could mitigate any adverse effects on military operations...", but we want to stress the importance of analyzing the technologies that developers have used – and are using – in the U.S. and abroad.

More specifically, we would find it extremely useful to learn from your report what mitigation technologies and practices are currently available, how and where some have been used, their successes and limitations, what types of new mitigation technologies are being developed, and an analysis of the potential costs to developers or federal departments to deploy them.

No U.S. wind project has ever been cancelled solely because of its impact on civilian or military radar systems. This is largely because developers, the DOD, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), have historically worked closely together on proposed wind projects to utilize technologies and practices that mitigate any interference problems. We believe these mitigation efforts have worked well and will continue to do so as long as the DOD continues its good faith effort to work with developers - not against them. It is our hope that your report will discuss the importance of continuing this cooperative relationship between the DOD, FAA and wind project developers when examining the use of mitigation technologies.

Developing clean, renewable resources is a priority for many Members of Congress and wind power will undoubtedly be a large part of our energy future. Therefore, we also encourage you to hold a Congressional briefing on this issue prior to submitting the report so that Members and

staff can provide you with additional insight about what is occurring in their congressional districts to develop more renewable sources of energy. Additional input from Congress will help improve the quality of the final product and provide us with a blueprint for developing future wind projects in a manner that addresses DOD concerns.

We certainly recognize and respect the paramount importance of any concern relating to national security, but we strongly encourage you to submit a report that not only thoroughly details the impacts of wind projects on military radar systems, but also presents workable solutions. Efforts to increase our energy security through the development of domestic, renewable resources only complement efforts to increase our national security and sustain our military's readiness. Thank you in advance for your attention to the requests detailed above and we look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,



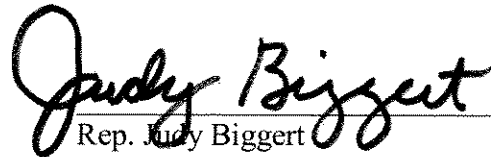
Rep. Ron Kind



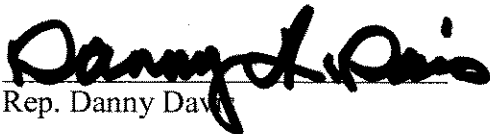
Rep. Tammy Baldwin



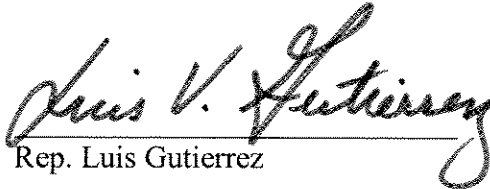
Rep. Melissa Bean



Rep. Judy Biggert



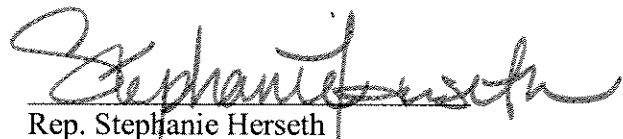
Rep. Danny Davis



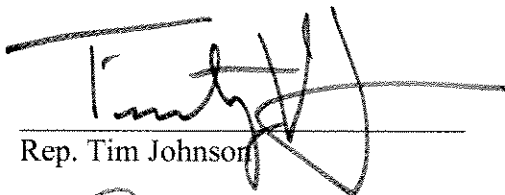
Rep. Luis Gutierrez



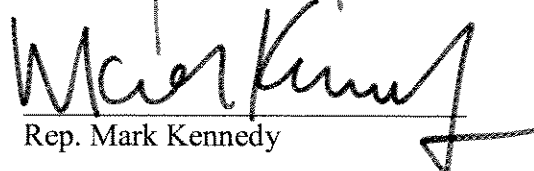
Rep. Gil Gutknecht



Rep. Stephanie Herseth



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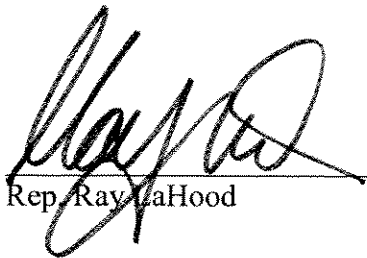


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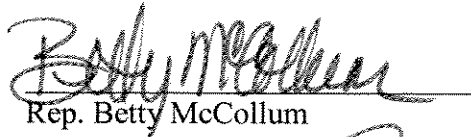


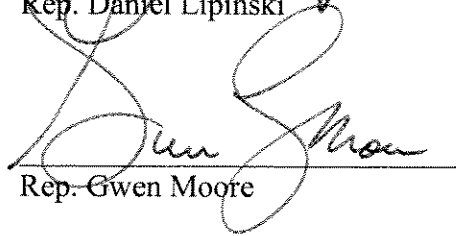
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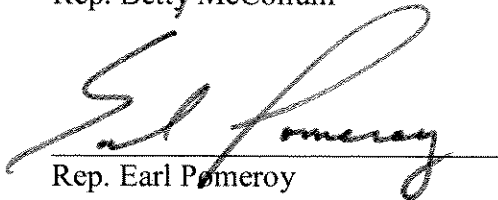
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cc: Russell Wright

  
Rep. Ray LaHood

  
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Rep. Gwen Moore

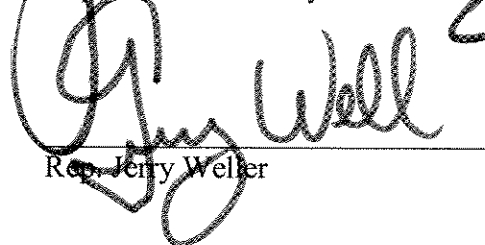
  
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